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Security Council

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Letter dated 26 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that in accordance with Security Council resolution 1399 (2002) of 19 March 2002 and the decisions taken by the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at its extraordinary meeting, held at Lusaka on 20 March 2002, the Forces armées congolaises (FAC) have withdrawn from the towns of Kayaya and Yayama.

My Government would like the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to visit the area to confirm that the withdrawal has indeed taken place. My Government would also be grateful if the Security Council would instruct MONUC to deploy to Pweto and Moliro and to report as soon as possible to enable the Council to take the appropriate measures.

My Government would like to remind the Council of the importance of all parties abiding scrupulously by all the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1399 (2002) and all prior resolutions concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government also wishes to draw the attention of the Security Council to two other matters that are of particular concern:

1. **Fighting in the high plateaux**

Fighting involving battalions of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) has been reported in South Kivu, in the region of the high plateaux, and especially in the Minembwe area. It would be appreciated if the Council would request MONUC to dispatch a team to the area to determine the exact nature of the conflict and to calm the situation.

2. **Disturbing incidents at Goma**

Tension has been on the rise in the town of Goma since Friday, 22 March 2002.

On that day, a demonstration by primary and secondary school pupils and their parents was harshly suppressed by elements of APR from Gisenyi, a Rwandan town on the border with Goma.

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On Sunday, 24 March 2002, a terrorist act was committed at Goma, in which two young children and a visiting priest from the Tshumbe diocese, who were taking part in the Easter procession, were killed. My Government requests the Council to instruct the personnel of MONUC in place at Goma to conduct an investigation aimed at bringing those responsible to justice.

All independent sources have implicated elements of APR in the throwing of the grenade. While the motives are admittedly not clear, there is every reason to believe that a close connection exists between the demonstration by the pupils and the terrorist attack regarded by the residents of Goma as a tactic to intimidate the population and discourage further demonstrations.

My Government calls on the Security Council to condemn this barbarous and unspeakable act, which increases the suffering and distress of an entire population that has yet to recover from the natural disaster caused only two months ago by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative